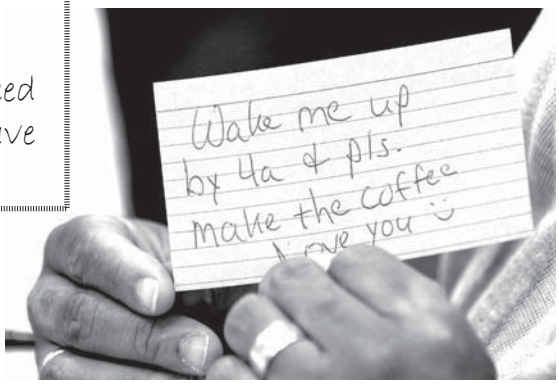
"I am always behind you.

My support is like air in the atmosphere that gives life."

These were the words of encouragement given by a husband (left photo) to his wife at a celebration for recipients of a Citizens Bank Massachusetts/World Education college scholarship. These 16 outstanding graduates of the New England Literacy Resource Center's (NELRC) College Transition Program have overcome enormous obstacles to pursue higher education. At the scholarship reception on September 5, 2007, students and family members were asked to participate in an activity that would give them the opportunity to express their support. In what turned out to be a moving ritual, they wrote words of encouragement on cards, read them aloud, and then handed their cards to the person they were offering support to.

I am so proud of you. You are a strong woman. I wish to do the same as you. I am so encouraged.

I'll be there to support you whenever you need me. You only have to ask.



Keep on persevering. I will be looking for you in the news.

When you have a family that counts on you, sometimes you feel like you aren't doing enough for them. It is not true. You are just too tired to remember. give them a hug and a smile and you will get the same.

You are worth it!

photos by John Crispin